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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,671	01/29/2004	Stephen Gerard Nikodem	21666-1	5421

7590

01/25/2005

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EXAMINER

BUMGARNER, MELBA N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3732

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

9P

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/767,671	Applicant(s) NIKODEM, STEPHEN GERARD	
	Examiner Melba Bumgarner	Art Unit 3732	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 July 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "46" has been used to designate both "eyelets" page 4 and "body" page 7. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "100", "102", and "104". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The claims appear to recite part of the human body in combination with the structure of the claimed invention. It has been held that a claim directed to or including within its scope, a human being will not be considered to be patentable subject matter under 35 USC 101. The grant of limited, but exclusive property right in a human being is prohibited by

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the Constitution. *In re Wakefield*, 422 F.2d 897, 164 USPQ 636 (CCPA 1970). Applicant needs to clearly state using inferential language that the human anatomy is not claimed. For examination purposes, the claims will be considered as if such limitations involving the combination with a human were not present.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-6, 9, 11-14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ziegler (4,187,610). Ziegler discloses an apparatus comprising a wire comprising a first end, a second end and a substantially planar body extending therebetween, the first end configured to couple to a tooth that is at least partially impacted, the second end configured to secure the apparatus relative to the tooth. The body comprises at least one eyelet formed between the ends. The body is unbraided between the ends. The body is sinusoidal shaped. The apparatus has a substantially uniform thickness between the ends. The apparatus further comprises an orthodontic fixture configured to be secured against an external surface of the tooth 12. Ziegler discloses a method of using the apparatus as claimed.

6. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-14, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Terry (5,112,221). Terry discloses an apparatus comprising a wire comprising a first end, a second end and a substantially planar body extending therebetween, the first end configured to couple to a tooth that is at least partially impacted, the second end configured to

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secure the apparatus relative to the tooth. The body comprises at least one eyelet formed between the ends. The body is unbraided between the ends. The apparatus has a substantially uniform thickness between the ends. The body comprises a spring extending between the ends. The apparatus further comprises an orthodontic fixture configured to be secured against an external surface of the tooth 12. Terry discloses a method of using the apparatus as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4, 7, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry in view of Sachdeva et al. (5,312,247). Terry discloses an apparatus that shows the limitations as described above; however, Terry does not show the body shaped as claimed. Sachdeva et al. teach an orthodontic wire, which applies a continuous force having a body that is zigzag shaped. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the body of Terry to have the body as in Sachdeva et al. as an alternative variation in configuration of force supplying body in view of Sachdeva et al. Terry discloses an apparatus that shows the limitations as described above; however, Terry does not show the wire fabricated from a superelastic material or shaped memory alloy. Sachdeva et al. teach an orthodontic wire which applies a continuous force to the tooth comprising superelastic or shaped memory alloy. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus which uses the force of the spring of Terry

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with the wire of superelastic material of Sachdeva et al. in order to use a force supplying wire that can be easily shaped or manipulated for placement by the practitioner in view of Sachdeva et al.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schachter (3,127,677) and Northcutt (3,835,538) are cited to show the state of the art with respect to an orthodontic apparatus.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Melba Bumgarner whose telephone number is 571-272-4709. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached at 571-272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Melba Bumgarner
Patent Examiner